

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action, dated February 4, 2009, and the Examiner interview, held March 18th, 2009. In the present Office Action, claims 1-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102. By this response, reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-47 remain pending. It is noted that the following claims have been amended without prejudice: 1, 4, 8, 9, 12, 13, 21, 26, 27, 35, 43, 44, 45, 46, and 47. No claims have been cancelled and no new claims have been added.

In an Examiner interview, Assignee's representative proposed language that the Examiner agreed appeared to render the claims patentable over the document being applied by the Examiner. It is noted that the proposed language, which is implemented in the foregoing claims, is not believed to narrow the scope of the claims because the language added is believed to have been implicit in the claims prior to amendment. Therefore, it is believed that no prosecution history estoppel results from these changes.

It is believed, therefore, that the foregoing addresses the issues raised by the Examiner and that the present claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Assignee respectfully submits that pending claims are in condition for allowance and a notification of such allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any remaining informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned at 503.439.6500 is respectfully solicited.

In the event there are any errors with respect to the fees for this response or any other papers related to this response, the Director is hereby given permission to charge any shortages and credit any overcharges of any fees required for this submission to Deposit Account No. 50-3130.

Respectfully submitted,

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